

AGENDA: May 27, 2003

4.15

CATEGORY: Consent

DEPT.: City Council

TITLE: Opposition to California Homeland Security Funding Plan Concept as Created by the Director of California's Office of Homeland Security

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE, IN CONCEPT, THE CALIFORNIA HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING PLAN AS CREATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF CALIFORNIA'S OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY, to be read in title only, further reading waived.

FISCAL IMPACT—There is no fiscal impact to approving the recommendation.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

At the May 13, 2003 City Council meeting, I provided an update of the activities of the Emergency Preparedness Council of Santa Clara County (EPC), a committee on which I serve as the representative of the City of Mountain View. As I indicated during my comments on May 13, 2003, members of the EPC are concerned about the creation of an Oversight Committee as proposed by George Vinson, Director of California's Office of Homeland Security and a member of Governor Gray Davis' staff.

The EPC's primary concerns with this committee, as outlined in the attached resolution (Attachment 1) stem from the determination by the EPC that the Oversight Committee consists of six members who are mostly political appointees and, therefore, cannot be held accountable by the voting public for their actions. The area of homeland security and funding to local entities for activities related to homeland security is very important and may directly affect our community and our ability to respond in case of a terrorist threat or action. The Oversight Committee disregards the authority of local government officials by eliminating the EPC from participation in providing input related to funding for homeland security-related activities. Thus, the EPC is seeking the support of member cities to ask Governor Gray Davis to oppose, in theory and practice, the creation of the Oversight Committee in its current form. I am therefore requesting that Council adopt the attached resolution.

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW
RESOLUTION NO.
SERIES 2003

A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE, IN CONCEPT, THE CALIFORNIA HOMELAND
SECURITY FUNDING PLAN AS CREATED BY THE
DIRECTOR OF CALIFORNIA'S OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

WHEREAS, the City of Mountain View recognizes the importance of addressing the need for increased funding for homeland security following the attacks on September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, George Vinson, the Director of California's Office of Homeland Security has proposed a California Homeland Security Funding Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Preparedness Council of Santa Clara County, which includes representation by Councilmember Rosemary Stasek, originally approved the creation of Mr. Vinson's Oversight Committee based on the concern that not doing so would result in the loss of Federal funds for local programming related to homeland security; and

WHEREAS, the current proposal presented by Mr. Vinson has moved outside of the scope of the Emergency Preparedness Council of Santa Clara County's approval of the Oversight Committee by removing the accountability of funding decisions for local measures related to homeland security from an established group of elected officials from across Santa Clara County and, in essence, provides full funding or decision-making authority to a nonelected entity; and

WHEREAS, the current allocation of voting rights under Mr. Vinson's proposal deprives the cities of Santa Clara County of population-based representation by creating a process for the selection of individuals who will serve on the Oversight Committee that is, on its face, arbitrary as it is directed by one individual as opposed to the voting public; and

WHEREAS, the Oversight Committee has no legal accountability to anyone because there is no clear chain of command and the membership consists of just one elected official and four political appointees appointed by Mr. Vinson; and

WHEREAS, there was no legal or outreach process involved in the implementation of the Oversight Committee and the selection of its membership because there was a failure to contact the State Legislature for their comments and no

effort was made to follow standard administrative procedures for the enactment of this type of committee; and

WHEREAS, there was no threat analysis performed to determine the appropriate allocation of voting rights, nor was there analysis performed related to the distribution of funding for homeland security-related expenses, including a lack of consideration for important factors such as proximity to potential terrorism targets such as ports, airports and railway facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Mountain View agrees to oppose this program in concept, asking that Governor Gray Davis reconsider this funding mandate in both theory and practice, acknowledging that there are better methods for increasing the funding for safety and security of residents of Santa Clara County.

JP/9/RESO
607-05-27-03R-E^

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PUBLIC NOTICING—Agenda posting.

Prepared by:

Rosemary Stasek
Councilmember

RS/JP/9/CAM
607-05-27-03M-E-5^

Attachment: 1. Resolution